

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 99

March 7, 1995, 2:15 p.m.
Page S-3555 Temp. Record

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT/Hungry-Homeless Children

SUBJECT: Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 . . . S. 244. Lott motion to table the Wellstone amendment No. 320.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 51-47

SYNOPSIS: A pertinent vote on this legislation includes No. 100.

As reported, S. 244, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, will strengthen the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 by maintaining the goal of reducing paperwork by 5 percent annually, by improving informational technology management, and by advancing information dissemination. The bill will also reauthorize for 5 years the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The Wellstone amendment would express the sense of Congress that Congress should not enact or adopt any legislation that will increase the number of children who are hungry or homeless.

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Following debate, Senator Lott moved to table the Wellstone amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

The Senator from Minnesota has referred several times to the State of Mississippi during the course of this debate. Frankly, it is inappropriate to make pejorative characterizations of individual States. With that said, we note that a different construction can be put on the House's actions regarding various welfare programs than has been made by the Senator from Minnesota. Programs like the school lunch program are enormously inefficient, with bureaucratic costs consuming more money than is spent buying food for children to consume. The House has proposed block grants to the States for the school lunch program and similar programs, allowing States to administer them as they see fit. The result, we expect, will be that costs will be cut, leaving more money to provide services. States do not need Big Mother Federal Government telling them how to take care of children. Everyone at the Federal level, and everyone at the State level, has the best interests of children at heart. The assumption made by the Senator from Minnesota--that the

(See other side)

YEAS (51)			NAYS (47)			NOT VOTING (2)	
Republicans (49 or 92%)	Democrats (2 or 4%)		Republicans (4 or 8%)	Democrats (43 or 96%)		Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Hutchison	Kerrey	Campbell	Akaka	Heflin	Inhofe- ²	Pryor- ⁴
Ashcroft	Kassebaum	Lieberman	Cohen	Baucus	Hollings		
Bennett	Kempthorne		Gregg	Biden	Inouye		
Bond	Kyl		Jeffords	Bingaman	Johnston		
Brown	Lott			Boxer	Kennedy		
Burns	Lugar			Bradley	Kerry		
Chafee	Mack			Breaux	Kohl		
Coats	McCain			Bryan	Lautenberg		
Cochran	McConnell			Bumpers	Leahy		
Coverdell	Murkowski			Byrd	Levin		
Craig	Nickles			Conrad	Mikulski		
D'Amato	Packwood			Daschle	Moseley-Braun		
DeWine	Pressler			Dodd	Moynihan		
Dole	Roth			Dorgan	Murray		
Domenici	Santorum			Exon	Nunn		
Faircloth	Shelby			Feingold	Pell		
Frist	Simpson			Feinstein	Reid		
Gorton	Smith			Ford	Robb		
Gramm	Snowe			Glenn	Rockefeller		
Grams	Specter			Graham	Sarbanes		
Grassley	Stevens			Harkin	Simon		
Hatch	Thomas				Wellstone		
Hatfield	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

best way to administer the school lunch program and similar programs is with massive, expensive, inefficient Federal bureaucracies--is one with which we respectfully disagree. We do not deny his strong desire to help children, but we vehemently disagree with his characterization of the House's welfare reform proposals. Therefore, we support the motion to table.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

We have brought this same amendment before the Senate three times already in the past 60 days. Each time we have cited the statistics on hunger and homelessness among this Nation's children, and we will repeat ourselves again today. The National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, estimated that there are 100,000 homeless children each day in America. The U.S. Council of Mayors found that 64 percent of the people receiving food assistance were from families with children. Last year the Children's Defense Fund reported that ever 5 seconds a child drops out of public school, every 4 minutes a child is arrested for an alcohol-related crime, and every 2 hours a child is murdered. The point, of course, is that children in America are suffering and they need more help from their Federal Government.

We have been forced to offer this amendment pointing out this need for greater Federal aid yet again because the House Republicans are continuing their shameful assault on children in their zealous efforts to fulfill their mean-spirited campaign document, Contract with America. In the past few days, House Republican committees have proposed heartless cuts in Federal childcare, housing, disabled children, and school lunch programs. All told House Republicans have proposed a savage \$40 billion in cuts from crucial child survival programs. They hope to use these savings for defense and to finance a capital gains tax cut for rich Americans.

To put this debate in human terms, we give our colleagues the words of Jeanette Reeves, a public school cafeteria manager in rural Mississippi: "I got a little boy come in here every morning and eats everybody's food. Just licks the plate. And you know he's not the only one . . . Many of these children get their only meals right here at school. Lord, it'll be cruel to change that." We agree with Jeanette Reeves. The House proposals are cruel. We urge our colleagues to go on record as saying that they will not support similar measures in the Senate.